

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 SMS-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
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R 181530Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5772
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY MANILA
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 19835

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: RP, UR, PEPR
SUBJECT: SOVIET PRESS CRITICIZES AMBASSADOR MURPHY
AND U.S. POLICY TOWARD PHILIPPINES

REF: MOSCOW 6841

1. AMBASSADOR MURPHY COMES UNDER FIRE IN AUGUST 16
IZVESTIYA ARTICLE, BY PAPER'S SINGAPORE CORRESPONDENT,
ENTITLED "THE AMBASSADOR THREATENS." ACCORDING TO
IZVESTIYA, IN A RECENT SPEECH AMBASSADOR MURPHY
STATED THAT:

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-- THE U.S. WOULD UNDER NO CONDITION WITHDRAW FROM
ITS MILITARY BASES IN THE PHILIPPINES;

-- OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS THE U.S. WILL EQUIP ITS
FORCES IN THE PHILIPPINES, JAPAN AND GUAM WITH
"THE LATEST TYPES OF NUCLEAR BOMBS AND OTHER
WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION" IN ORDER TO REPEL "THE

SOVIET THREAT" IN THE PACIFIC.

2. ARTICLE HOLDS THAT "LOCAL COMMENTATORS" RELATE AMBASSADOR MURPHY'S SPEECH TO THE ONGOING DIFFICULT TALKS ON THE STATUS OF U.S. BASES IN THE PHILIPPINES. IT QUOTES THE "FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW" AS REPORTING THAT U.S.-PHILIPPINE RELATIONS ARE BECOMING INCREASINGLY STRAINED AND CONCLUDES THAT THE AMBASSADOR'S SPEECH "... IS CONSIDERED HERE AS ONE MORE ATTEMPT TO EXERT PRESSURE ON THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PHILIPPINES."

3. TASS ARTICLE DATED MANILA AND ENTITLED "TIES ARE STRENGTHENING" APPEARS ON SAME PAGE OF IZVESTIYA. ARTICLE QUOTES MRS. MARCOS' CITATION OF KOSYGIN'S COMMENT TO HER THAT THE USSR IS "STRIVING" TO WIDEN COOPERATION WITH THE PHILIPPINES AND TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PHILIPPINES. IT ALSO QUOTES HER AS SAYING THAT THE "WARM AND CORDIAL RECEPTION" ACCORDED TO HER DELEGATION IN MOSCOW "IS A REFLECTION OF THE RESPECT WHICH THE USSR SHOWS TO OUR COUNTRY AND OUR PEOPLE."

4. COMMENT: BOTH ARTICLES REFLECT AN OPPORTUNISTIC EFFORT TO EXPLOIT CURRENT PROBLEMS BETWEEN THE MARCOS REGIME AND WASHINGTON (INCLUDING THE BASE NEGOTIA-
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TIONS) TO COURT THE MARCOS', AND TO CONTRAST SOVIET GOOD INTENTIONS WITH ALLEGED U.S. ATTEMPTS TO "PRESSURE" THE PHILIPPINES. SOVIET EFFORT TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH THE PHILIPPINES IS CONSISTENT WITH MOSCOW AND HANOI'S POLICIES TO BETTER BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH ASEAN COUNTRIES, WHICH WERE UNDERWAY BEFORE RECENT SOVIET AND VIETNAMESE "ACCEPTANCE" OF ASEAN ITSELF. AS NOTED REFTEL, LONG-TERM SOVIET OBJECTIVE IS TO WORK PATIENTLY FOR IMPROVED DIPLOMATIC, POLITICAL, TRADE AND CULTURAL CONTACTS WITH MANILA WHILE USING MOSCOW'S RESOURCES TO STOKES ANTI-U.S. AND ANTI-PRC SENTIMENT IN THE PHILIPPINES WHEREVER POSSIBLE. FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH, SOVIET MFA VIETNAMESE SPECIALIST RECENTLY TRANSFERRED TO THE PHILIPPINE DESK TOLD EMBOFF LAST WEEK HE WELCOMES HIS NEW ASSIGNMENT. NOW THAT VIETNAM IS FIRMLY IN THE "SOCIALIST" CAMP, HE SAID WITHOUT SMILING, IT WILL BE A "CHALLENGE" TO CONCENTRATE HIS ENERGIES ON THE PHILIPPINES. TOON

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